IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing hydrocyanic acid (HCN) comprising catalytically dehydrating ~~by catalytic dehydration of~~ gaseous formamide in the presence of atmospheric oxygen in a reactor ~~which has~~ comprising an inner reactor surface ~~made of~~ comprising a steel comprising iron and chromium and nickel, wherein the process is carried out at a pressure of from 200 to 250 mbar and wherein the reactor contains no additional internals, catalysts, or a combination thereof.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The process ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the steel ~~contains~~ comprises nickel and chromium in a ratio of from 1:1 to 1:2.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The process of ~~as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the inner reactor surface ~~is made of~~ comprises a steel comprising $\geq$ 60% by weight of iron.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The process ~~as claimed in any~~ of claim 1 ~~of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the pressure/load ratio is from 1 to 100 kg of formamide/m^2 of reactor surface~~, preferably from 5 to 80 kg of formamide/m^2 of reactor surface~~.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The process ~~as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5~~ of claim 1, wherein the preparation of hydrocyanic acid is carried out in the presence of ~~atmospheric oxygen, preferably~~ from 10 to 50 standard l of air/kg of formamide.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): ~~A The~~ process of claim 1 ~~as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6~~ carried out at from 350 to 650°C.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The process of claim 1 ~~as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7~~, wherein the reactor is a tube reactor ~~having one or more~~ comprising at least one tube ~~tubes~~.

Claims 9-13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (New): The process of claim 1, wherein the process is carried out at a temperature of from 500 to 550°C.

Claim 15 (New): The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the inner reactor surface comprises a steel comprising $\geq$ 60% by weight of iron.

Claim 16 (New): The process of claim 3, wherein the pressure/load ratio is from 1 to 100 kg of formamide/m^2 of reactor surface.

Claim 17 (New): The process of claim 4, wherein the pressure/load ratio is from 1 to 100 kg of formamide/m^2 of reactor surface.

Claim 18 (New): The process of claim 1, wherein the pressure/load ratio is from 5 to 80 kg of formamide/m^2 of reactor surface.

Claim 19 (New): The process of claim 3, wherein the pressure/load ratio is from 5 to 80 kg of formamide/m^2 of reactor surface.

Claim 20 (New): The process of claim 4, wherein the pressure/load ratio is from 5 to 80 kg of formamide/m^2 of reactor surface.

Claim 21 (New): The process of claim 3, wherein the preparation of hydrocyanic acid is carried out in the presence of from 10 to 50 standard l of air/kg of formamide.

Claim 22 (New): The process of claim 4, wherein the preparation of hydrocyanic acid is carried out in the presence of from 10 to 50 standard l of air/kg of formamide.

Claim 23 (New): The process of claim 5, wherein the preparation of hydrocyanic acid is carried out in the presence of from 10 to 50 standard l of air/kg of formamide.

Claim 24 (New): The process of claim 3 carried out at from 350 to 650°C.

Claim 25 (New): The process of claim 4 carried out at from 350 to 650°C.

Claim 26 (New): The process of claim 5 carried out at from 350 to 650°C.